

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 624

Congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United Nations committee
for the first time in history.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Congratulating the State of Israel on chairing a United
Nations committee for the first time in history.

Whereas the State of Israel is the only member of the Western and Others Group in a conditional status limiting its ability to caucus with its fellow members of this regional grouping, compete for open seats, or to run for positions in major bodies of the United Nations, such as the Security Council, or United Nations-affiliated agencies, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council;

Whereas Israel is excluded from discussions and consultations of the Western and Others Group at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome, and Vienna;

Whereas Israel has been refused admission to the Asian Group of the United Nations, thereby being denied the

rights and privileges of full membership in the United Nations;

Whereas Israel has submitted its candidacy for membership on the Security Council for 2019 and hopes to gain full participation rights in the United Nations;

Whereas, in 2004, at the first United Nations Department of Public Information Seminar on Anti-Semitism, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan acknowledged that “the United Nations’ record on anti-Semitism has at times fallen short of our ideals”;

Whereas, in 2005, the United Nations held an unprecedented session to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp;

Whereas at the opening of the 61st General Assembly in 2006, former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan stated that “on one side, supporters of Israel feel that it is harshly judged by standards that are not applied to its enemies . . . and too often this is true, particularly in some UN bodies”;

Whereas, in January 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution condemning any denial of the Holocaust;

Whereas, on June 19, 2007, for the first time ever since Israel joined the United Nations, an Israeli diplomat, Mr. Ron Adam, director of the Israel Foreign Ministry’s United Nations Political Affairs Department, has been chosen to chair a United Nations committee, the Committee on Program and Coordination (CPC);

Whereas this 33 member body (composed of Argentina, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Republic of Central Africa, China, Comoros, Cuba, France, Ghana,

Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Portugal, Korea, Russia, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, United States, and Israel) approves the work plan for all United Nations agencies and bodies;

Whereas since Israel was accepted as part of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) in 2000, it has had the right to apply for positions on United Nations committees;

Whereas Israel has played an active role in the international community and within the United Nations;

Whereas Israel already sits on several important committees, and representatives from Israel have served as deputy chairs in the United Nations numerous times;

Whereas Israelis were first elected to notable United Nations positions in 1994, including the high administrative tribunal at the Hague, Vice Chair of the World Health Organization's Executive Committee and the Human Rights Committee, in June 2005 Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Dan Gillerman, was appointed one of the 21 new vice presidents of the General Assembly, and in July 2005, Israel was elected to deputy chairmanship of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC); and

Whereas Israel's first unique appointment to chair a United Nations committee will hopefully encourage the normalization of Israel's bilateral and multilateral relations and challenge future disproportionate United Nations condemnation of Israel: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) congratulates Mr. Ron Adam, Israel's Chair
2 of the United Nations Committee on Program and
3 Coordination, and the Government and people of the
4 State of Israel on Israel's first ever appointment to
5 chair a United Nations committee;

6 (2) supports continued expansion of Israel's
7 role at the United Nations;

8 (3) welcomes recent attempts by the United
9 Nations to address the issue of prevailing anti-Semi-
10 tism;

11 (4) calls on the United Nations to officially and
12 publicly condemn anti-Semitic statements made at
13 all United Nations meetings and hold accountable
14 United Nations Member States that make such
15 statements;

16 (5) urges the members of WEOG to extend full
17 and permanent membership to Israel, without condi-
18 tions, until such time as Israel can serve as an effec-
19 tive member of the Asian States Group; and

20 (6) calls upon United Nations Secretary-Gen-
21 eral Ban Ki-Moon to work to end any unfair vilifica-
22 tion of Israel at the United Nations and to use his
23 good offices to support Israel's bid to join the Asian
24 regional grouping.

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